

September 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter to formally object to the pending application for an ABC Type-21 liquor license at 303 Highland Avenue by Manolo Farmers Market. I am the owner of La Casa Liquor, located at 228 Highland Avenue, directly across from the proposed site. As a business owner in this community for over 30 years, I believe that granting an additional Type-21 liquor license in such close proximity would negatively impact the youth of National City.

Although I do not reside in National City, I consider myself deeply connected to the community. Many of my customers have become like family, and I have watched their children grow into adulthood. I take great care to ensure that alcohol is not sold to minors, as I know many of my customers personally and am familiar with their families. This familiarity allows me to prevent underage sales and ensure that alcohol is handled responsibly in my store.

I am concerned that a larger business such as Manolo Farmers Market, with many employees and multiple checkout lines, would not be able to exercise the same level of oversight. In a store of that size, minors may find it easier to purchase alcohol or engage in theft. By contrast, in my smaller store, I can monitor all activity, and the liquor is kept securely behind the counter.

It is my firm belief that increasing access to alcohol in this community could harm our youth, who already face significant challenges. Many young people here are balancing school with work to help support their families. The availability of alcohol could contribute to distractions, higher dropout rates, and potential increases in crime. I have personally invested time and resources into supporting families and youth in this community, and I am deeply committed to their well-being.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to deny the liquor license application for Manolo Farmers Market.

Sincerely,

Salwan Nafsu
Owner, La Casa Liquor

Sarah Esendencia

From: vera rapozo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 1:43 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Manolo Farmers Market - Spirits License

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Greetings!

My family has lived in National City on 3rd street for many years, since the early 1940's. My mother grew up in the house on the corner of 3rd and G. She worked for the Chamber of Commerce for many years and our family has been very involved in the community for many years (i.e., Maytime Band review, Las Palmas Lifeguard/Swim Instructor, etc.). The property is very close to Manolo, Sierra Cafe and all other businesses in this area.

The noise level and traffic has increased significantly over the past 6 years causing concern. People drive fast down the road, while the STOP sign that was added to G street has helped but there are still kids driving down the road with loud electric motor bicycles. In addition, Manolo has food trucks parking on their parking lot and play live music until late in the evening. Last Sunday 9/29, the music was playing until after 11pm.

The Spirit license for Manolo will further exacerbate the noise levels and disturbances. With the food trucks, I can see people purchasing hard liquor (i.e., Spirits) and taking the alcohol to the food trucks and drinking there on site. This could create disagreements or potential fights, more car accidents at that intersection, etc.

There is already a liquor store right on the corner next to the laundromat. There are no issues that I'm aware of that have happened at the liquor store. The patrons will drive to the liquor store, pick up the liquor and drive away, drinking elsewhere. This is much of a better situation than people purchasing and consuming the liquor right there on site.

Note in addition, many neighbors including ourselves have voiced our concerns around the restaurants (Sierra Cafe) daily practices of jet spraying their property at about 4pm. They also, at times, run a leaf blower as early as 5 or 6am on Saturdays or Sundays. This also creates another disturbance.

Thanks for your consideration and hearing the Tax Paying Residents concerns!

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